

## House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

### **Sherer Votes for Absentee Landlord Registry to Help Control Blight**



State Rep. Donald B. Sherer, R-147<sup>th</sup>, Stamford, New Canaan, has cosponsored and voted for legislation allowing towns and cities to require that landlords be identified and kept on a town or city registry. Rep. Sherer said this will allow landlords to be contacted to correct blight or other substandard housing conditions.

“This legislation will help tenants and officials in Stamford to identify absentee landlords so they will know who to contact for problems at a rental building,” said Rep. Sherer. “With a registry of landlords, contact information will be more readily available.”

He added, “Stamford has a very strong blight ordinance so that neighborhoods do not deteriorate. This will enhance the ability to crack down on various problems such as blighted properties, illegal apartments and public school students falsely claiming Stamford residence.”

The state House of Representatives approved the legislation May 25 and sent it to the Senate and then the governor for enactment into law.

The bill allows municipalities to require nonresident owners of rental property, or their agents, to maintain their current residential addresses on file in the municipality where the property is located. The property owner or his agent must maintain the residential address on file whether the rental property is occupied or vacant. The owner or his agent must inform the municipality when his residential address changes.

The bill specifies that a post office box is not considered an address.

Additionally, any municipality may, by ordinance, establish a civil penalty for noncompliance with the address-reporting requirement. The amount of the penalty may not exceed \$ 250 for the first violation and up to \$ 1,000 for subsequent violations.

A House amendment specifies that address filing requirements are for nonresident owners or agents and adds the provision allowing municipalities to establish a civil penalty.

The bill would be effective October 1, 2005, for allowing towns to require nonresident rental property owners to maintain their current address on file and upon passage for establishing a penalty for noncompliance with the address provisions.

Rep. Sherer serves the 147<sup>th</sup> Assembly District of Stamford and New Canaan in the state House of Representatives.